

forces to compose the Fifteenth Corps. These troops and those assigned to the Thirteenth Corps were at this time with Gen. Sherman, who had left Memphis on the 20th of December, under orders of Gen. Grant, to proceed down the Mississippi River, and in cooperation with the gunboat fleet, under Admiral Porter, to operate against and reduce Vicksburg.

At Helena, Ark., Gen. Sherman met Gen. Gorman, the commanding officer, and arranged with him for the establishment of a force of infantry, artillery, and cavalry to operate from Friar's Point over to the Tallahatchie, and he was also joined by Gen. Steele with his division. This force was



GEN. W. T. SHERMAN.

embarked on the 21st, and were rendezvoused at Friar's Point. The whole force then proceeded to Gaines' Landing, and the next day to Milliken's Bend, La.

From that point Burbridge's Brigade, of the First Division, (A. J. Smith's), was dispatched to destroy a section of the Vicksburg & Shreveport Railroad near Tensas River. This work was successfully performed, the roadway being destroyed for many miles and several pieces of bridge and trestle work burned. A great deal of cotton, corn and cloth belonging to the Confederate Government was also burned.

On Dec. 25 Gen. Sherman with three divisions proceeded opposite the mouth of the Yazoo and landed on the west bank of the Mississippi, whence Gen. Morgan L. Smith, with one of his brigades, was sent to destroy another section of the same road at a point near Vicksburg. The First Division was left to follow as soon as Burbridge's Brigade came in. The work of destruction was so fully accomplished as to render useless the Vicksburg & Shreveport Railroad, by which vast amounts of supplies reached Vicksburg. On the 26th the fleet proceeded up the Yazoo River about 12 or 13 miles, where they disembarked on the bottom lands between the Yazoo River and the Walnut Hills. A. J. Smith's Division rejoined them the next day.

CHICKASAW BLUFFS. In landing, Steele's Division (Fifteenth Corps) formed the extreme left, on the left of Chickasaw Bayou; Morgan's Division (Thirteenth Corps) came next, on the right of that bayou; M. L. Smith's Division (Fifteenth Corps) next, and A. J. Smith's (Thirteenth Corps) on the right, following the road leading direct to Vicksburg.

These positions were taken on the 27th, and on the same day the four columns moved forward, skirmishing slightly with the enemy. On the following day a general advance in the nature of a reconnaissance was made as far as the lake fronting the bluff, and in this reconnaissance Gen. M. L. Smith was seriously wounded and was obliged to leave the field, the command of his division being assumed by Gen. David Stuart. On the left Gen. Steele found his way blocked by Thompson's Lake, which was so difficult of crossing that he was ordered to return to the Yazoo River, cross back in the transports to the other side of Chickasaw Bayou, and come up in support of Morgan's Division. This movement was executed during the afternoon and night of the 28th.

In the center Morgan laid a pontoon-train across a small bayou, and on the right A. J. Smith advanced along the main road on a line with the other columns. During the day there was considerable skirmishing with the enemy's pickets, but the losses were slight, and the enemy retired to the bluff. The



GEN. MORGAN L. SMITH.

next morning further reconnaissances were made, and orders were given for the assault. Morgan's Division, supported by Steele's, was to make the main attack against the enemy's center; A. J. Smith, with M. L. Smith's Division and one brigade of his own, was to cross a narrow sandbar across the lake about a mile below the point of Morgan's attack and advance against the levee, on the other side of which the enemy was strongly entrenched. On the extreme right the rest of A. J. Smith's Division was to make a demonstration on the road to Vicksburg.

At 12 o'clock the signal for the assault was given, and De Courcy's Brigade, of Morgan's Division, crossed the lake and advanced the distance of a half mile through a terrible fire toward the enemy's works on the bluff.

On his left Blair's Brigade, of Steele's Division, crossed the lake near its junction with Chickasaw Bayou, and made a similar advance through an equally fierce fire. The whole front of the assault was made by De Courcy's and Blair's Brigades, which advanced with the greatest gallantry right up to the enemy's works, but being cut to pieces by front and cross fire were forced to yield, and between 3 and 4 o'clock p. m. they fell back and re-embarked the levee.

During the night of the 29th Sherman's troops remained in their positions close to the lake. Deeming it unwise to renew the assault, Gen. Sherman concluded to hold his present ground, and to send a force of 10,000 men to make an assault at Haines' Bluff, higher up the river. Arrangements for this movement were made with Admiral Porter, but could not be

executed, owing to darkness and dense fog which prevailed. Sherman therefore determined to re-embark his men and return to the mouth of the Yazoo River, which was done with the exception of the enemy on the 29th of January. Here met Gen. McClernand, to whom he relinquished command.

In the skirmishes at Chickasaw Bayou, Dec. 27 and 28, and assault on Chickasaw Bluffs, Dec. 29, 1862, Gen. Sherman's command lost 1,776 killed, wounded and missing, as follows:

| Command.                             | Killed    |               | Wounded.  |               | Capt'd or<br>missing. |               | Aggregate. |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------|
|                                      | Officers. | Enlisted men. | Officers. | Enlisted men. | Officers.             | Enlisted men. |            |
| General officers.                    |           |               |           |               |                       |               |            |
| 34 Ill. Cav.                         | 1         |               |           |               |                       |               | 1          |
| 5th Ill. Inf.                        | 1         | 24            | 1         | 8             |                       |               | 170        |
| 116th Ill. Inf.                      | 1         | 1             | 1         | 3             |                       |               | 5          |
| 12th Ill. Inf.                       |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 6          |
| 14th Ill. Inf.                       |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 1          |
| 24th Ill. Inf.                       |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 56         |
| 6th Ill. Inf.                        |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 184        |
| 9th Ill. Inf.                        |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 1          |
| 69th Ill. Inf.                       |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 13         |
| 81st Ill. Inf.                       | 1         | 17            | 10        | 102           | 5                     | 2             | 139        |
| 4th Iowa                             | 1         | 6             | 4         | 101           |                       |               | 112        |
| 9th Iowa                             |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 7          |
| 25th Iowa                            |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 10         |
| 30th Iowa                            |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 4          |
| 31st Iowa                            |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 2          |
| 32nd Iowa                            |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 14         |
| 33rd Iowa                            | 1         |               |           |               |                       |               | 107        |
| 22d Ky.                              | 3         | 6             | 5         | 67            |                       |               | 11         |
| 6th Mo. Cav.                         |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 6          |
| 34 Mo.                               |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 2          |
| 6th Mo.                              |           | 13            |           |               |                       |               | 3          |
| 8th Mo.                              |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 67         |
| 12th Mo.                             |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 3          |
| 17th Mo.                             |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 6          |
| 20th Mo.                             |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 130        |
| 31st Mo.                             | 2         | 17            | 4         | 66            | 4                     | 57            | 151        |
| 31st Mo.                             |           | 17            | 10        | 62            | 6                     | 69            | 151        |
| Ohio I. A., 4th Reg.                 |           |               |           |               |                       |               |            |
| 16th Ohio                            |           | 16            | 4         | 57            | 12                    | 182           | 311        |
| 5th Ohio                             |           | 6             |           |               |                       |               | 2          |
| 14th Ohio                            |           | 4             | 3         | 10            |                       |               | 8          |
| 15th Ohio                            |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 125        |
| 17th Ohio                            | 1         |               |           |               |                       |               | 2          |
| 11th Ohio                            | 1         | 5             | 1         | 29            |                       |               | 86         |
| 12th Ohio                            |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 16         |
| 13th U. S. I. & F.                   |           |               |           |               |                       |               | 3          |
| 13th U. S. I. & F., 1st<br>Battalion |           | 1             |           |               |                       |               | 13         |
| Total                                | 19        | 189           | 65        | 949           | 25                    | 538           | 1,778      |